

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to the amendment filed on 07/21/2009.
2. Claims 1-5, 7, 1-14 and 16 are pending for consideration.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Anthony Onello on 11/18/2009.

Claims 1 and 10 have been amended as follows:

Claim 1:

A method for authenticating a removable digital medium by determining the presence of an anomaly region corresponding to a data segment of the removable digital medium comprising: performing multiple read operations on a data segment of the removable digital medium to generate multiple corresponding read data results; calculating corresponding digital signatures using actual data values of underlying data of the read data segment for each of the multiple read data results; determining whether an anomaly region is present in the data segment based on a comparison of the digital signatures by determining whether any of the digital signatures are equal in value, and if

a predetermined number of the digital signatures are not equal in value, determining the anomaly region to be present; and authenticating the removable digital medium in response to the determination of the presence of the anomaly region.

Claim 10:

A system for authenticating a removable digital medium by determining the presence of an anomaly region corresponding to a data segment of the removable digital medium comprising: a read unit for performing multiple read operations on a data segment of the removable digital medium to generate multiple corresponding read data results; a calculating unit for calculating corresponding digital signatures using actual data values of underlying data of the read data segment for each of the multiple read data results; and a determining unit for determining whether an anomaly region is present in the data segment based on a comparison of the digital signatures by determining whether any of the digital signatures are equal in value, and if a predetermined number of the digital signatures are not equal in value, the determining unit determining the anomaly region to be present; and a means for authenticating the removable digital medium in response to the determination of the presence of the anomaly region.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments, filed on 07/21/2009, with respect to claims 1-5, 7, 1-14 and 16 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 1-5, 7, 1-14 and 16 has been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 1-5, 7, 1-14 and 16 are allowed.

6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As noted above, the Examiner agrees with the Applicant's arguments on pages 9-10 of the Remarks, specifically that the prior art does not teach a method of determining the presence of an anomaly region in a digital medium which includes "determining whether an anomaly region is present in" a "data segment based on a comparison of the digital signatures by determining whether any of the digital signatures are equal in value, and if a predetermined number of the digital signatures are not equal in value, determining the anomaly region to be present," as claimed in independent claim 1, or a system for authenticating a digital medium by determining the presence of an anomaly region corresponding to a data segment of the digital medium that includes "a calculating unit for calculating corresponding digital signatures using actual data values of underlying data of the read data segment for each of...multiple read data results," and "a determining unit for determining whether an anomaly region is present in" a "data segment based on a comparison of the digital signatures by determining whether any of the digital signatures are equal in value, and if a predetermined number

of the digital signatures are not equal in value, the determining unit determining the anomaly region to be present," as claimed in independent claim 10. The Examiner was unable to find a teaching, suggestion, or motivation that would render the above limitations obvious. Claims 1-5, 7, 1-14 and 16 are, therefore, novel and not obvious.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TRANG DOAN whose telephone number is (571)272-0740. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William R. Korzuch can be reached on (571) 272-7589. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Trang Doan/
Examiner, Art Unit 2431

/William R. Korzuch/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2431